



POLLEN PROGRAM PHONE NUMBERS

Pollen counting and reporting, and enforcement of the tree ordinance is conducted by the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department. To contact the Department concerning pollen or the ordinance please call 768-1930.

AIR QUALITY PHONE NUMBERS

AQI/Pollen Update – 768-4734

No-Burn phone line – 768-BURN

Open Burning permits – 768-1930

Air Quality complaints – 768-1930

XERISCAPE PHONE NUMBERS

Xeriscape Rebate Program – 768-3655



**If you have questions concerning
the tree ordinance or general
questions on trees or pollen
call 768-1930**



City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department Air Quality Division

11850 Sunset Gardens SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121
Phone 505.768.1930
FAX 505.768.1977
TTY 505.768.2482



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE POLLEN PROGRAM

YOUR KEY TO RESTRICTED TREES



As of August 1st, 1997, the passage of City Ordinance No. 0-51 resulted in:

- 🌳 the prohibition and regulation of certain trees;
- 🌳 a penalty for violating any of the provisions of the ordinance.



This Ordinance applies only to the City of Albuquerque.

WHAT TREES ARE PROHIBITED?

🌳 All Cypress, of the family Cupressaceae, genus *Cupressus*

🌳 All Mulberry, of the family Moraceae, genus *Morus*

🌳 All Elm, of the family Ulmaceae, genus *Ulmus*



WHAT TREES HAVE EXCEPTIONS?

🌳 Juniper/Ceder

OK to buy and plant:

- male plants that do not exceed 2 feet tall when mature, or
- any size plant that is female only.

OK to grow and sell:

- male plants that meet the above criteria and are so labeled prior to sale.

🌳 Cottonwood/Poplar

OK to grow, sell, buy, and plant only:

- Rio Grande Cottonwood
- Quaking Aspen
- Lanceleaf Cottonwood
- Mountain Cottonwood

Note: Male trees generate the pollen.
Female trees generate the cotton.

🌳 Sycamore and Ash

OK to grow, sell, buy, and plant if:

- they are individually labeled identifying them as high pollen/high allergen potential.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING TREES



All nurseries, from the small local grower to the large chain, are required not to sell prohibited trees and to properly label restricted others.

🌳 If the tree is a Juniper, Cedar, Sycamore, or Ash, then the tree should be properly labeled. Check with the nursery staff if you have any questions concerning the tree you are about to purchase.

🌳 If you want to limit the amount of pollen in your landscape you should research what trees and plants fit your criteria. The key to remember is that male trees produce the pollen, so you may limit your landscape to female only where possible. The exception to the female only rule is that some trees are monocious (also monoecious), meaning they are male and female.

🌳 The majority of a tree's pollen will likely be deposited within a few hundred feet of the tree. To limit pollen in your home you should not plant trees near air conditioning, windows, vents, or other openings to your home.

🌳 It is against the ordinance to purchase a prohibited tree outside the city limits, transport the tree to your home and have the prohibited tree planted within the city limits.

WHAT ARE THE WORST TREES FOR POLLEN?

This is a difficult question to answer since it relies on what pollen an individual may be allergic to and the quantity required for someone to have an allergic reaction. One person may be allergic to a small amount of Mulberry pollen, while another may be allergic to a large amount of Ash pollen.

For the City of Albuquerque, the primary tree pollen producers are listed below.

Rank	Tree	Highest Daily Pollen Count Range
1	Mulberry	395-10205
2	Juniper	726-2480
3	Elm	69-1065
4	Cottonwood	52-730
5	Ash	76-506

Pollen counts cover 11 years of data

While these are the primary airborne tree pollen producers you should also be careful around non-airborne pollen producing trees. Common trees such as Russian Olive and Salt Cedar can both release pollen into the air if disturbed, and may cause an allergic reaction.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE A POLLEN ALLERGY

If you believe you have pollen or other allergy you should seek out your primary care physician.